

**Good FRIDAY** Morning NR Training Providers, MOU Inspectors / Personnel verifiers, PTAC partners & NR Contract Associations I would like to share Amendment #1 to our guidance for 2020 fire season,

First let me start with a quote that seems to fit the times very well:

*"There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don't know we don't know."*

**Donald Rumsfeld**

As you can image getting ready for the 2020 Fire Season with the dynamic COVID19 situation is a very fluid & rapidly changing situation. I suspect this will be the case for some time, but the fire service will rise to the occasion.

Yesterday I had 2 great questions & comments from a couple of our MOU Inspectors & the Bitterroot Wildfire Contractor's Association, so please consider this as amendment #1 to yesterday's email on the Region 1 US Forest Service Operational Guidance for fire season 2020. These questions were also discussed on a National USFS Contracting Operations call yesterday afternoon.

I hope to have Northern Rockies Coordination Center post this entire package with updates on the NRCC Contracting for Fire webpage as time permits, so we can track the history & have a reference point as we move through fire season. I expect several amendments to USFS guidance & expect to add the guidance from BLM, NPS, IDL & Montana DNRC related to their contractors & agreements. I'll be working with NRCC Equipment Desk on this posting. In addition our USFS Fire Contracting Officer, Debby Wesselius will reference this website as she sends her information to the USFS Agreement holders (present & pending).

**Item #1 Work Capacity Test Packs / Vests:** For Companies & / or Training Providers offering 2020 work capacity testing for the arduous test, they will need to determine how to safely manage people & equipment using pack vests, backboards, backpacks, scales, etc. to meet the 45 pound requirement. I talked to the Missoula Smokejumper WCT administrator & here is what the jumpers plan. 1 person / 1 pack, no sharing of packs due to contamination concerns. All Single use packs will be deconned after the test and stored through 2020. Test administrators after verifying the Health Screening Questionnaire (covered in my previous email of 3/26) for approved personnel will need to weigh packs to verify correct weigh. The Smokejumpers have some very economical means to get each person a personalize pack for 2020, such as:

- Personal backpack with a sand bag or similar packaging at 45 pounds. Folks build their own packs for comfort and administrators weigh before testing.
- Trapper Nelson pack board or hose bag with a 45 pound 2 ½" fire hose or weight plate from the gym (fire dept. commercial gym, home gym, metal works shop, etc.) attached to the pack.
- Commercial WCT Vest.

I heard one jumper was going to carry a 45 pound rock last year but, I'd advice against that option. I suspect his arms are 3 inches longer this year.

**Item #2 Practice Shelters:** As you hopefully noticed in the 3/21/20 Federal Fire Management Board memo, at the bottom of page one, last sentence. "The fire shelter training should be implemented using a standard fire shelter that no longer meets service parameters or a practice fire shelter as a one-

person, one time use. “ This applies to 2020 for all Federal Wildland Agencies. On yesterday’s National USFS Contract Operations call there was no sense of any change in this guidance, so we must march on. Again, I cannot tell contractors or training providers how to administer their practice shelter deployments for 2020 in light of COVID19. This will be up to those folks to determine for equipment & personnel needing to complete a walk or arduous work capacity test in 2020. Spacing of folks is also critical for social distancing, more details available from CDC @ <https://www.cdc.gov/> .

Thanks for the input from NR inspectors & Missoula Smokejumpers, as this will take a village during a challenging time for all.

3/27/20